

SIX NEW THEATRES BUILDING

AND FOUR MORE ARE PLANNED FOR NEW YORK THIS YEAR.

Hammerstein Building the Biggest Playhouse in New York, if Not in the World—A New Lyceum—All to Be Remarkable for Convenience and Safety.

New York is the theatre centre of the country. There are more than forty theatres in this borough alone. Apparently the existing playhouses do not supply the demands of the amusement seekers. Else why should far-seeing managers build others?

Six new theatres are actually being built at this time, and six will be open to the public in the fall. Plans for four more have been filed with the Building Department and their projectors hope to get them under way just as soon as the weather

his previous efforts. His experience cost him dear and culminated in his losing the imposing structure on Long Acre Square that he called Olympia. Since then he has built the Victoria and the Belasco. The Olympia contained two theatres, which are now known as the New York and the Criterion.

The Drury Lane is on the north side of Thirty-fourth street, 100 feet west of Eighth avenue. The building takes in ten full city lots. It runs through the block to Thirty-fifth street and stands on the ground formerly occupied by the Decker piano factory.

Hammerstein purchased the property three years ago for \$120,000. It has since increased greatly in value, for the Pennsylvania Railroad station will be within hailing distance.

In planning the Drury Lane Hammerstein had in mind a popular-price house. He contends that a large number of people think the present theatre prices too high

ing voice carry to every part of the building. His experience has taught him many things about the acoustic properties of theatres that he says no other builder knows. In the Drury Lane he is going to use this knowledge, but like the magician and his tricks, he is not explaining how he is going to do it.

The iron work of the new building is now three-quarters finished and Hammerstein expects to dance a jig on the roof in May. The foundation alone cost \$120,000 and three million bricks were used in laying it.

The estimated cost of the finished building is \$1,500,000. On top of the building will be a monster roof garden. The front of the structure will be of limestone and granite.

"Because I am building a popular-price theatre," said Mr. Hammerstein, "I don't want people to think I am erecting a cheap building. It will be a first-class house in every respect."

"One of the features of the stage will be a water curtain, to be used in case of fire. Of course, there will be the asbestos curtain which is required by law, but in addition I will have more protection. Across the top of the stage I am going to place a six inch pipe. This pipe will be perforated

nue. When Daniel Frohman found that the old Lyceum had to be razed he decided that he wanted another house like it. As the theatre drift was moving northward he settled on the site mentioned as a good spot for a playhouse.

While the main entrance to the Lyceum



THE ROYAL.

and when the water is turned on it will make a curtain of water. The Drury Lane will open in the fall with a new Lyceum Theatre in Forty-fifth street, between Broadway and Sixth ave-

will be on Forty-fifth street, the building will run through the block to Forty-sixth street. In this building the machinery, the new Lyceum Theatre is in Forty-fifth street, between Broadway and Sixth ave-

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